

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: VID-20190316-WA0005.mp4

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2000233.004

Medium: Video File

Maker: Not stated

Country of origin: Aotearoa New Zealand

Language: Arabic

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 22 September 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 22 September 2020

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	VID-20190316-WA0005.mp4	1:19
Total running time:		1:19

Summary of reasons for decision:

The video file is a mirrored version of 'Mosque Attack Aftermath Video' (OFLC Ref: 1900175.000) which was classified R18 on 15 April 2019. This is bystander footage of the aftermath of the Christchurch mosque attacks that took place on 15 March 2019. As a record of real events, the footage would likely be shocking and disturbing for children and teenagers, and may negatively impact their mental and emotional health. While many adults are also likely to be disturbed by the footage they are expected to have the maturity and experience to appropriately contextualise potentially distressing material. It is likely to be of considerable emotional impact for the survivors and the friends and families of the victims depicted, as well as the wider New Zealand Muslim

community, and New Zealand citizens in general. Nonetheless, the footage under consideration here primarily serve as an evidentiary record of events. It does not contain elements that promote or encourage acts of extreme cruelty, violence, or criminal acts of terrorism. Classifying this publication as objectionable would mean that even the creation of this kind of content would be illegal, potentially limiting the ability for victims of such violence to verify their claims or seek justice. As such, injury to the public good from the availability of this publication can be mitigated by a restriction to adults who have the maturity and life experience to adequately contextualise and objectively assess what they're viewing, without risk of harm. This classification limits the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but it is a reasonable limitation on that right in order to prevent injury to the public good.